members said that the House Surgeons are confined only to Trivandrum. That is not so.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, I do not understand what Mr. James Simpson is saying. I would request the Chair to ask him to repeat his observations.

President: Mr. Kesavan Nair wants the Chair to repeat your observations with regard to House Surgeons.

Mr. James Simpson: It has been said in this House, I think by two members, that the House Surgeons are being localised in Trivandrum. That is not so. We have House Surgeons in General Hospital, Trivandrum, in the Women's and Children's Hospital, Trivandrum, in the District Hospital, Quilon, in Alleppey and in Kottayam. So the services of the House Surgeons are being utilised by the major hospitals in the State.

President: Your time is up.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, I would like the Durbar Physician to explain about the frightful number of patients who are absconding.

President: I will allow one more minute to explain that point.

Mr. James Simpson: If the member has seen the overcrowding in General Hospital he may realise that there is delay in operation and it frequently happens that the patients before operation goes off without their discharge.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 9,40,108 under Demand X—Medical—was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

President: On account of domestic inconvenience Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai is unable to be present here. The demand for Public Health will be moved by the Chief Secretary.

DEMAND XI—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,87,220 under Demand XI—Public Health and Sanitation.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I rise to oppose the demand. My main idea in doing so is to show that the total amount for the Demand is made up of the poor tax payers' money and as such that money should be utilised in the interests of the public in general including the rural parts. The benefits of the Department should not be confined to particular centres only. It should be distributed throughout the State.

In this connection, I have to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the difficulties that the people in Perumbavoor have to face. Perumpavoor is the capital of Kunnatnad Taluk. Perumpavoor town has a population of 4,000 people,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.].

according to the last census. Now the population can be estimated to be not less than 10,000. There is difficulty of good drinking water in the town during the hot months of the year. Good drinking water is one of the absolute necessities of every citizen. The Government after repeated representations were kind enough to sink four wells in the town. But unfortunately there is no water in any of those wells from the month of Makaram to the middle of Edavam. The department did not consult us nor the local *Asaris* who are proficient in finding out places where sufficient water could be found. If that was done a lot of money now spent could have been saved. It may be astounding to think how these *Asaris* are proficient in finding out places where water could be found. But in practice we find that they are better masters in this respect. They are able to locate places from where water could be easily got. Now what the Department has spent is a waste of money. Heads of Departments who come to the locality on circuit also have to share in this difficulty. In the well at the campshed there is no water. Perumbavoor is a crowded town. There is a Munsiff's Court, a First Class Magistrate Court, a number of educational institutions, and a dispensary. This fact of the necessity for providing good drinking water was brought to the notice of the Head of the Department by various persons and on various occasions. As yet very little attention is paid. This step-motherly treatment meted out to this town is certainly regrettable. The quota of tax paid by the people of North Travancore is the same as it is paid by people in other places. I therefore request the Government to pay particular attention to the elementary needs of all the rural areas in the supply of fresh drinking water.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja (*Edavaga*): Sir, I wish to support the demand. In supporting the demand, I wish to impress upon the Government the necessity of extending the work of the Public Health Department to rural parts also. But of course the Public Health Department is doing very good service to the people. But most of their services are confined to the towns. In the rural parts we do not get sufficient help by way of medical relief. The propaganda work is confined only to the urban areas. We do not find them working in that direction in the rural parts. Medical relief is also not sufficient in rural parts especially in the hilly parts where during the monsoon seasons there are very many kinds of diseases. We do not find the Public Health Department doing sufficient work outside the municipal areas. I would request the Government to educate the public in matters of public health by means of lectures and exhibitions in the rural areas. Public health is one of the vital needs of our country. The rural population is ignorant of the rules of public health and unless the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Public Health Department takes a keen interest the health of the people cannot be improved. I therefore submit that the Department and the Government will bestow sufficient attention in the matter.

Mr. Kochickal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I rise to support the Demand. In doing so I wish to draw the attention of Government to the imperative necessity of strengthening the staff of the Public Health Department in order to combat the filarial fever prevalent in Karapuram and in Ambalapuzha. The rate of mortality from the disease is very high and owing to lack of resources the municipalities are not able to cope with the work of preventing the spread of this disease. But useful work has been done by way of antimosquito campaign, but I am afraid that the Municipal Council at Alleppey has stopped that work due to lack of funds. Sir, the question of Alleppey is not merely a local question. Alleppey is the most important commercial town in the State, and is very close to the Cochin Harbour. It must be the duty of the State to bestow all possible attention in the matter of preserving the public health of Alleppey. Therefore I appeal to the Government to allow greater sums of money unstintingly to the Public Health Department to be spent in Alleppey so that we may not be put to the same plight as we were put to last year on the outbreak of plague epidemic.

Mr. R. V. Thomas (*Todupuzha* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I oppose the Demand to bring home to Government the necessity for bestowing more importance to the problem of the public health of the citizens of the State. In all the civilised States, public health is given the first and foremost place. In our State, I am compelled to remark that public health and sanitary conditions are very unsatisfactory. A More vigorous campaign must be carried on to combat diseases like malaria, filaria, typhoid and tuberculosis which are taking away a very heavy toll of life every year from our State. In rural areas the public health and sanitary conditions are not what they should be. But it is no better in urban centres. One of the necessary conditions of sanitation and public health, particularly in crowded centres, is the provision for good first class public latrines. I must say to the discredit of this department that there is not even one good sanitary public latrine throughout the State. Take the case of the Municipal town of Trivandrum. With due respect to my friend Mr. Simon I am constrained to observe that even in the metropolis there is not a single sanitary public latrine worth the name. I wish to impress upon the Government the very great necessity of putting up good public latrines, at least in the more important urban centres of the State.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. R. V. Thomas.]

With regard to the spreading of public health education in the rural centres I have also to bring to the notice of Government that for the last two or three years particularly the hilly areas have been affected much more than in former years with malaria. In my constituency for the last two or three years malaria has been more rampant than in former years. I also wish to suggest that a large number of rural health visitors be appointed by Government to educate the people on public health and sanitation.

Mr. M. Govindan (*Nominated*): Sir, I am in perfect agreement with my friend who advocated the extension of the usefulness of the most important department *viz.*, the Department of Public Health. Sir, recently, an arrangement was made for medical inspection of our school children and some officers were also appointed and placed under the Health Department for this purpose. These officers were required to make periodical visits to the schools and inspect the health of the children and report to the authorities concerned. Their reports show that a large number of school children are suffering from the evil effects of malnutrition and others are suffering from hookworm attacks and other diseases. Well Sir, malnutrition is a disease the treatment of which will cost a considerable amount of money no doubt. Nevertheless in cases of acute malnutrition, I submit that it is quite possible for the Medical Department to treat them by giving—I am afraid Dr. Simpson may object to my encroaching on his ground but with his permission I may say—cod liver oil to such pupils. The reason for malnutrition may be stated to be that the children have nothing but tapioca to eat. My view is that it is not the only reason. In this connection I may say that as is natural in the cases of kindred Departments there is jealousy between the Public Health Department and the Medical Department. I find that the children who are sent by the Medical Inspectors for treatment in hospitals are receiving a kind of step-motherly treatment by the medical officers there. To the treatment of other patients they are more attentive. Another trouble is that the schools are situated far away from the hospitals and when the children are advised to go to hospitals, they do not usually follow the advice. My suggestion is this: Instead of placing these Medical Inspectors under the Public Health Department they may be placed under the Medical Department so that the expected benefit may be derived by the children. Now although we get apalling figures with regard to the proportion of school children suffering from all manner of diseases, I am afraid, adequate attention is not paid for reducing the number of school children afflicted with diseases. Sir, in view of the fact that the public health of the children who have to grow up to be the citi-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

zens of the country is a valuable asset. I submit that this is a matter deserving very serious attention of the Government.

Mr. James Fletcher (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I support the Demand. The duty of looking after the public health of the citizens is one of the primary duties of that State. Therefore, I would say that the provision under this Demand is not quite sufficient. I would request the Government to strengthen the staff of the Public Health Department to carry on their work with more zest and earnestness to the best interests of the country. I may also state that this problem of Public Health has to be met in various ways in different places. In certain places more educational propaganda might be necessary for the people to understand the benefits of preserving good sanitary conditions. In another place it may be by the supply of good drinking water. Yet in another place it may be the free supply and distribution of medicines for an epidemic which has broken out in that locality. In this connection I may bring to the notice of Government the fact that year after year there is the outbreak of cholera in the two taluks of Vilavankod and Kalkulam. The reason for this frequent outbreak is often due to want of good drinking water and due to the utter ignorance of the people of the fact that cholera is an epidemic and it could easily spread through the water used for drinking purposes. If the people understood that the water that is available is boiled and the germs killed before they make use of it for drinking purposes they may perhaps escape the infection. That fact is not known to them. Again, there are cases in which the public do not know how to conduct themselves safely and properly when there is an epidemic. When there is a cholera patient, they do not know that he should be isolated and kept apart, the articles used by him, or the evacuations of the patient ought to be carefully destroyed and his clothes burned and so on. Thus in certain places it may be the question of educational propaganda

Then again, I would refer to another area in my constituency, that is, Neyyattinkara. Sir, malaria is still prevalent there. It is said that the disease is spread by mosquitoes. But I do not know whether it is right. But in any case particular care should be taken to educate the people about the manner in which this disease is spread. Then they will be very careful not to have stagnant water near their houses and thus prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. In some places, the department will have to sprinkle kerosene oil or some such thing to destroy these mosquitoes.

Government will have to help the people by distributing medicines whenever there is an outbreak of malaria. In fact, the moment the symptoms of the disease are apparent, medicines must be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. James Fletcher.]

distributed and the spread of the disease must be prevented. I hope the Public Health Department will realise the importance of their work and will do their best for the health of the people of the country so that they may be more efficient in increasing the wealth of the State.

Mr. Eric Hall (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, I oppose the Demand with a view to draw the attention of the Government to the insanitary condition of the bazaars in the Peermade and the Vandiperiyar Districts. These two Districts are very near Cumbom where in 1932 there was an outbreak of plague which even spread into Travancore. I understand that, about 3 years ago, Government passed orders that the bazaars should be inspected by Estate Superintendents in liaison with the medical officer, and reports submitted to Government. That has been done ; but the condition of the bazaars is still extremely disappointing ; and, at the moment, the condition is wholly unsatisfactory. Prevention is better than cure. Plague should not come into Travancore if it can be prevented. I would therefore ask the Government to take immediate steps to improve the sanitary condition of the bazaars in Peermade and Vandiperiyar.

Mr. M. S. Anirudhan: Sir, I also oppose the motion to offer a few remarks on the public health of Alleppey. Sir, Alleppey is the most important commercial centre in the State ; and people from different parts of the State flock there for their business activities. Therefore, if Alleppey is not kept in good sanitary condition, the unhealthiness there may spread to all parts of the State ; the people who visit the place will carry infection from Alleppey to their respective places. Alleppey is a dirty town. It is low and water-logged. There is a net work of canals with stagnant water. It is these canals that make the public health of Alleppey so bad.

Sir, the resources of the Alleppey Municipality are very limited and are highly inadequate for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the town. Some time back, a filarial survey of the town was conducted. But nothing seems to have been done so far to combat the disease. Now, after the last attack of plague, a bigger campaign for the destruction of rats is going on. But the authorities are concentrating their attention on the rats in private houses. Sir, in Alleppey, the rats do not live mostly in private houses. There is a net work of canals with thick vegetation on either side ; and it is in the midst of such vegetation that the rats mainly live. Therefore, unless effective measures are taken to destroy such vegetation, the rat destruction problem cannot be solved effectively.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I was very sorry to learn from Mr. Tampi that the mosquito campaign has been put a stop to. Sir, that is very unfortunate. I request the Government to continue the campaign in the interests of public health at Alleppey.

There is also another difficulty with regard to Alleppey. There are some areas in the town which are marshy. Such places have to be acquired, filled up and made habitable.

Mr. P. I. Simon : Sir, I oppose the Demand for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the Public Health Department the need for wider propaganda with a view to educate the people of the rural parts, especially as to how to live neatly and in a sanitary fashion, how to keep their premises clean. That, of course, will contribute more towards their health than anything else.

Sir, Mr. Govindan was referring to malnutrition as a disease. I do not know how he conceived that idea.

Mr. M. Govindan : It is not my idea.

Mr. P. I. Simon : Malnutrition is nothing but want of nutrition or bad nutrition. For that, the Public Health Department should open child welfare centres in almost all the villages. The Trivandrum Municipality is trying the experiment here. I am sure the efficiency of the Public Health Department will be enhanced if they pay more attention to the establishment of child welfare centres in the rural parts.

My learned friend Mr. R. V. Thomas referred to public latrines and the need for them in the rural parts. Sir, it is only in crowded cities that there is need for public latrines. In the rural parts, they will be a nuisance, an invitation to collect undesirable matter in one place. I should think that my friend's idea in the matter is erroneous. My friend also said that there is not one public latrine in Trivandrum which is being kept in a sanitary condition. I do not know whether he has had the necessity of making use of one of the public latrines in this town, If not, I do not think he is justified in making such a statement. Sir, we are doing our best to maintain our public latrines most satisfactorily in view of the conditions prevailing in this town. The Water Supply Scheme has helped us in a great deal to improve our latrines, and we hope the Drainage System will enable us to make the public latrines perfect.

Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib : I also oppose the Demand with a view to point out the most insanitary condition of the roads near markets and bazaars in mofussil parts. I do not think they are even being swept. Either there are no arrangements for sweeping, or the work is not extracted from the sweepers if there are any. I do not think they are swept even once every

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib.]

month. In the interests of public health, it is highly necessary that, at least in congested bazaars and places near markets, sweeping must be done properly and frequently. In Chirayinkil, Nedumangad, Navaicolam, Kallambalam and such other places, there are markets and the roads near about do not seem to have been swept at all even once a month.

My friend Mr. Simon stated that there is no necessity for public latrines and urinals in the rural parts. I am sorry I have to disagree with him In congested localities where there are markets and bazaars, public latrines and urinals are indispensable.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: Sir, public health and sanitation are certainly very important for any country. If public health is not quite essential for the safety of the State at persent, I am sure it will become very essential for the safety of the future generations. I should think that those who are interested in the improvement of the public health of the country would do better to concentrate their attention on the school-going population. Now, we find that by the time our boys finish their education, they are definitely worse in point of health. The matter is even more important in the case of girls who are to be the mothers of the future generation.

Sir, there is the bad habit in our country—probably elsewhere also—of the people making use of the sides of public roads as public latrines. It may be due to the lack of sufficient number of public latrines and also to the fact that the existing latrines are very bad and repelling.

Sanitation and public health are bad not only in towns but also in the country parts. The sanitation of country parts is taken care of only by jackals.

As it is, most of us are only food for germs of diseases. If any one of us is examined, it may be found that so many germs are living upon us. It is very essential that we should be made—probably the germs cannot be prevented from attacking us—strong enough to resist them. My impression is that sufficient heed is not paid to the condition of the people in Travancore, probably because, in the present circumstances, the health of the people is not found very necessary for the safety and progress of the country.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : സർ, മി. സൈമന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു. വീടുകളും ഉള്ള പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽ വ്യവസ്ഥയില്ലാതെ മലമൂത്രവിസർജ്ജനം ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഫ്ലക്ക്വേം സുഖക്കേടുകളുമായി ഇവിടെ കാണുന്നതെന്നാണ് വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഓരോ വീടുകളിലും പരിഷ്കൃതരീതിയിലുള്ള കക്കൂസുകൾ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുകയൊ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ട കയൊ ചെയ്യണം. സെൻസസ് റിപ്പോർട്ട് നോക്കിയാൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്ത എത്ര വീടുകളുണ്ടെന്ന നമക്ക് അറിയാം. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ പറ ഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ചെയ്യുകയും പരിഷ്കൃതരീതിയിൽ കക്കൂസ് ഉണ്ടാക്കാത്ത വരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാൻ ഉദ്ദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇതുവരെ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുകടക്കുകയേയില്ല.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : Sir, I shall point out only one or two matters on which I feel that the Public Health Department has not paid sufficient attention. Though we had a Food Adulteration Regulation passed by the Legislature, I am so sorry to find that the Public Health Department was not vigilant enough to see that the necessary rules have been made and that it was brought into effect early enough. At least now when it has become possible for them to take action, necessary action should be taken to prevent the adulteration of food stuffs that are being sold in crowded cities.

Another point that I wish to urge on the attention of the Public Health Department is the number of beggars going about in cities with contagious diseases, their unsightly wounds and the very dangerous and unsatisfactory conditions in which they live and breed all sorts of disease germs. These matters, I am afraid, are not engaging the attention of the Health Department sufficiently. Without preventing these defects it will be impossible to secure proper health, at least in crowded cities. I hope that the Department's earnest attention in these two directions will be exercised as early as possible.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar (*Nominated*) : Sir, I support the motion. The infectious diseases like small-pox, cholera, etc., take an epidemic form through the medium of water is a recognised principle. This being so, a completely water-logged area is liable to contagion to a greater extent than any other place. Hence I will only be justified in pleading that greater attention to the public health of such places as Kuttanad where only contaminated water could be had for drinking as well as for any other purpose, should be paid.

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, it is very gratifying to note that the honourable members appreciate the good work that is being done by the Public Health Department. The demand from the other side of the House is that more funds should be allotted to this department and that additional hands should be appointed. Sir, I quite realise the importance of developing the activities and usefulness of this department.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Rajyasevaniratha Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai]

During the last few years, particularly after the amalgamation of the Sanitary Department with the newly formed Public Health Department, the activities of the Department have been growing from more to more and Government have been sanctioning additional funds and additional hands from year to year, so much so I think we can take pride in the fact that the proportion of the revenue which we spend on this department in Travancore is more than the proportion obtaining in other States or even Provinces in India. By saying so, I do not mean that the maximum of expenditure to be incurred on this department has been reached. As honourable members will see on a perusal of the various budgets for the last few years, the allotments have been increasing year after year and I can assure the honourable Members that the Government will not hesitate to spend more money for protecting the health of the people hereafter also. As regards the work that is being done by the Department I must say that it compares favourably with the work that is being done elsewhere. Take for instance the case of malaria. When this epidemic broke out in Neyyattinkara and Nedumangad two years ago, the honourable members know what vigorous measures were taken by Government to combat it. By the co-operation of the Medical and Public Health Departments and with the hearty support and help of the publicGovernment have been able to check and control the epidemic which broke out two years ago. There is no doubt, still malaria in some parts of the country, but there it is endemic. It is not possible to exterminate malaria altogether from the State within a short time. The nature of the country is such that any preventive measures that we are able to take may not be sufficient to get rid of the malaria altogether Take for instance the parts of Neyyattinkara and Nedumangad where malaria is now endemic. The nature of the country, with its hills and valleys, the paddy fields and the numerous ponds and pools that you see there, is such that it is practically impossible to fill up all the mosquito breeding places and thus prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. The honourable members may take it that Government will not spare any pains or any amount of money that may be required to keep this pest under control as far as possible.

Then again the Department has been doing and continues to do very useful work in the control of filariasis. Honourable members may know that two or three years ago they started this work on a very limited scale in the taluk of Shertalla and during this year the operation was extended to a much larger area. It has been found by investigations that the mosquito which spreads filarial fever thrives on a water plant called *pistia* and if that plant is removed and destroyed filariasis can easily be controlled. The removal of the *pistia* from the tanks and ponds in Shertalla is being

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

carried on by the Department. The real difficuliy is that th is *pisia* is also a good green manure for crops like cocoanut, plantain and others and the cultivators are rather unwilling to permit the removal of the pistia from their tanks and ponds. But the problem has to be solved and probably we may have to find some other green manure in the place of pistia for these crops. For the sake of the health of the people, it is absolutely necessary that this pistia must be removed and destroyed and experiments may be conducted with other water plants to see whether a substitute can be found for pistia to be used as manure for cocoanut and other crops.

Regarding the control of malaria, Sir, in the town of Alleppey the Government, with the co-operation of the Alleppey Municipality, did some work for a year or two. The Municipality contributed a share of the expenses and Government contributed the rest. Later on, the Municipality refused its contributions and Government unfortunately were obliged to discontinue the mosquito control work. It has been said, Sir, that Alleppey is a very important commercial town and it is very essential that the health of the town should be looked after properly. The Government admit it. But Alleppey being a commercial town, it is inhabited by commercial magnates or at least by rich commercial people and it ought to be possible, Sir, for the Municipality to collect sufficient funds from the inhabitants of the town to contribute at least a moiety of the expenditure required for the sanitation of the town.

If the Municipality would extend a little helping hand, instead of depending entirely on Government to meet the whole expenditure, I can assure the honourable members that Government will only be too glad to take up the work both of the malarial control and filariasis control.

The drinking water problem Sir is a very serious problem and a very important problem. Honourable members know that the Government have begun to tackle the problem in various directions. In the first place, they have started water supply schemes in some important towns. Provision has been made in the budget for the next year to investigate the water supply scheme for Kuttanad and other lowlying lands and in course of time it will be possible to extend these operations to other localities which stand in need of the supply of good drinking water.

Regarding the wells at Perumbavur Sir, I know from my own experience that the wells there dry up during the summer months. Probably the nature of the earth there is such that you cannot get sufficient water even at a great depth during the summer months But the problem has got to be solved and I believe that with the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Rao Bahadur Rajyasevaniratha Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

co-operation of the Public Works Department and the Water Works Department it will be possible to find some means by which drinking water can be supplied to the inhabitants of Perumbavur.

As regards the health propaganda work which has been referred to by a number of honourable members, Government fully realise its importance and usefulness. Health propaganda is being carried on very vigorously by the department. Honourable members will see from the budget that provision has been made for the appointment of an Assistant Health Education Officer. There is at present one Health Education Officer, and he goes about the country, delivers lectures and distributes pamphlets to the people. A Health Education Van, with loud speaker equipment, has recently been purchased and members have had a demonstration of it a few days ago. This van is taken from place to place and lectures are delivered through it on health matters.

The statement of some honourable members that health propaganda and the activities of the department are confined to towns is not quite correct. No doubt some work is being done in towns. But propaganda is being carried on more in the rural parts than in the towns. It may not be possible for the department to reach all the rural parts at the same time. It requires time. But I may assure honourable members that hereafter more propaganda will be undertaken in rural parts.

In regard to rural sanitation and rural health, there is provision in the current year's budget for appointing some Sub-Assistant Surgeons as Sanitary Officers in a few taluks in the south The idea of the department is to do intensive work in a few select taluks, particularly in those taluks where there is danger of outbreak of cholera and smallpox as stated by Mr. Fletcher. This intensive work has been started, and I am told that the work turned out so far is very satisfactory. One important item of work which these officers attend to is the collection of accurate vital statistics. It cannot be said that the statistics now collected are very accurate. Only if we have accurate statistics could we find out whether and what preventive work, should be done. Along with the collection of statistics preventive work such as vaccination and inoculation, is also being carried on by these officers.

Sir, one word with regard to the medical inspection of schools. My friend Mr. Govindan said that on account of the duality of control in regard to medical inspection there is some hitch somewhere. This matter has not yet come to the notice of Government. The Medical Inspectors are attached to the Public Health Department. They examine children and give tickets to them. These tickets are taken to the nearest hospital where they are given the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

necessary treatment. I am sure that, with the co-operation of the two departments, it will be possible to carry on the work without any hitch. This is the first time that the existence of a hitch is brought to the notice of Government. I may assure the honourable member that if there is any real hitch or difficulty it will be looked into and remedied.

The question that a sum of Rs. 2,87,220 be granted under Demand XI—Public Health and Sanitation was then put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XII—FOREST.

Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,25,438 under demand XII Forest.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് റിസർവ് വനങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നെൽകൃഷിക്കു സാമാന്യേന സ്ഥലം വളരെ കുറവായിട്ടാണു കാണുന്നതു. അതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾ പുതുവലും മറ്റും ലേലത്തിൽ പിടിക്കയൊ പതിപ്പിക്കയൊചെയ്തു് താഴ്ന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ നിലമാക്കി നെൽകൃഷിചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഫാറസ്റ്റിനുള്ളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു നെൽകൃഷി ചെയ്യാമെന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഒരേർപ്പാടു ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിറുത്തൽചെയ്തു. അതുനിമിത്തം ആ താലൂക്കുനിവാസികൾ നെൽകൃഷിക്കു സ്ഥലമില്ലാതെ വളരെ ജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതിന്റെ പരിഹാരത്തിനായി ഒരു ഫാറസ്റ്റ് കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പു വൃക്ഷങ്ങളില്ലാത്തതും വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുണ്ടാകാത്തതും നെൽകൃഷിക്കുമാത്രം ഉപയുക്തവുമായ ചതുപ്പുസ്ഥലങ്ങളെ റിസർവ്വിൽനിന്നും വേർതിരിച്ചു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനായി ഒരു കമ്മറിയെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി. ഓരോ ഡിവിഷനിലേയും ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിവിഷൻ ആഫീസർമാരും ഏതാനും ചില നാൺ അഫീഷ്യൽ മെമ്പറന്മാരും അതിൽ മെമ്പർമാരായിരുന്നു. കൂടപാർപ്പിനു സമീപമുള്ള ഫാറസ്റ്റുകളിലുൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങളെ ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽനിന്നും വേർപെടുത്തി പത്തോ ഇരുപതോ ഏക്കർ വീതം ഓരോ ബാളാക്കുകളായി തിരിച്ചു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് ആ കമ്മറി ശുപാർശചെയ്ത ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ അക്കാലത്തും കൺസർവേറ്ററായിരുന്ന ഇന്നത്തെ കൺസർവേറ്റർതന്നെ അതിനു വലിയ വിരോധിയായിരുന്നു. തന്നിമിത്തം കമ്മറിയുടെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly